

Transporting Cell Cultures Research/Clinical Specimens or Biohazardous Materials

When moving biohazardous materials from one lab to another:

- Transport in a sealed, leak-proof primary container within a sealed, leak-proof secondary container (e.g. Tupperware or other snap-lid container) lined with absorbent matting. The secondary container shall be identified with the universal biohazard symbol.
- Disinfect the outside of the secondary container so gloves are not necessary when handling the container. *Refer to the Lab Disinfectants SOP to select the appropriate disinfectant.*
- **Remove all PPE before leaving the lab.**
- Avoid public areas and elevators if possible when moving biohazardous materials. If public areas or elevators must be used, gloves and lab coats must not be worn.
- ***Under no circumstances are gloves to be used on common surfaces such as computer keyboards, door knobs or elevator buttons.***
- Even though a spill is unlikely when secondary containment is used, URI Public Safety Dispatch (401-874-2121) must be notified immediately if there is a release of biohazardous materials during transport. A first responder from EHS will be dispatched to help with clean-up and decontamination if the spill is in a public area.